

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – In a meeting last evening at the White House, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) urged President Obama to increase his commitment to resolving the water crisis that is devastating the San Joaquin Valley. “Once again, I delivered our Valley's message directly to the President: Together, we can overcome this water crisis. But to do so, the Administration must increase our supply of water, and step up their commitment to our farmers, families, and workers.

“People across the Valley are hurting and our livelihoods are at stake. As farmland continues to be fallowed and record levels of people remain out of work, I again invited the President to visit our district to see firsthand the devastating impact that water restrictions have had on our Valley.

“The Administration can and must provide relief to the people who are suffering under the effects of a drought and years of misguided water regulations. The economic viability and wellbeing of our country is directly tied to a healthy Valley economy. A failure to increase the Valley's water supply will limit our region's ability to put food on our nation's dinner table and hire workers.

“I appreciate the President's time and willingness to speak about the issues facing our district. Increasing the Valley's water supply will create jobs and opportunity – two goals that the President assured me he shares as we work to lead our country to a new period of economic growth and security.”